

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following rewritten Abstract which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix. .

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The end on the ball side of the rubber-elastic thread element or rubber thread includes a swivel taking up a rotational movement of the ball, e.g. in the case of sliced balls, thereby preventing a twisting of the rubber thread that might cause disturbances inside the retrieval device ~~due to the formation of eyes.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15, and bridging page 7, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The invention shall be further explained with reference to a preferred exemplifying embodiment and to figures.

The figures show:

Fig. 1      plan view of a tennis racket including a ball  
             retrieval device with the handle and portions of  
             the frame open or sectioned[[:]];

- Fig. 2      same as Fig. 1, but in side elevation, with thread and ball;
- Fig. 3      bottom view of the handle portion of tennis racket of Fig. 1;
- Fig. 4      partial view on the tip of the tennis racket;
- Fig. 5      side view of a swivel;
- Fig. 6      front view of a swivel with the end of a rubber thread inserted therein;
- Fig. 7      longitudinal section of a swivel head;
- Fig. 8      cross-section according to VIII-VIII in Fig. 7 through the left half of a swivel head;
- Fig. 9      projection of the right half of the swivel head according to IX in Fig. 7;
- Fig. 10     Driving system of the retrieval device, longitudinal section, reduced to driving elements;
- Fig. 11     projection of front support plate according to XI in Fig. 10;
- Fig. 12     projection of rear support plate according to XII in Fig. 10;
- Fig. 13     partial section: helical groove on spool;

- Fig. 14 top view of carriage in foremost position;
- Fig. 15 front view of carriage, spool sectioned according to XV-XV in Fig. 14;
- Fig. 16 partial view of carriage: roller carriage;
- Fig. 17 enlarged top view of the handle of the tennis racket, opened;
- Fig. 18 view as in Fig. 17, however from the left;
- Fig. 19 view as in Fig. 17, however from the bottom;
- Fig. 20 projection of the clasp;
- Fig. 21 cross-section of the clasp according to XXI-XXI in Fig. 20
- Fig. 22 plan view of the closure slide;
- Fig. 23 plan view of the emergency brake;
- Fig. 24 cross-section according to XXIV-XXIV in Fig. 23;
- Fig. 25 cross-section according to XXV-XXV in Fig. 23;
- Fig. 26 projection according to XXVI-XXVI in Fig. 23;
- Fig. 27 projection of unlocking member according to XXVII-XXVII in Fig. 23;

- Fig. 28 cross-section through the spool at the location  
of the attachment hole for the thread element;
- Fig. 29 cross-section through the spool at the spring stop;
- Fig. 30 cross-section through the racket handle according  
to XXX-XXX in Fig. 2; and
- Fig. 31 schematic plan view of manual locking brake  
according to XXXI in Fig. 10. -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line  
6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Shaft 17 of swivel head 8 smoothly rotates in a  
through-going bore 18 in reinforcement 19 at the tip 5 of racket  
1. (Fig. 4, Figs. 7 to 9). Rubber thread 7 passes through hollow  
shaft 19 and into head 20 of swivel head 8 and exits from the  
side of head 20 through exit 21. Exit 21 is provided with upper  
and lower guiding pulleys 22, [[resp.]] 23. Pulleys 22, 23 are  
smoothly journalled, particularly by means of ball bearings. The  
ball bearings are encased to prevent the penetration of dust. As  
illustrated in Fig. 7, guiding pulleys 22, 23 keep rubber thread  
7 from gliding over stationary parts of head 20 even in the  
indicated extreme exiting directions (arrows 24, 25), thereby  
eliminating the risk of wear.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 28, and bridging page 9, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Main mechanism 2 of the ball retrieval device is implemented as a tennis racket handle and fastened to racket head 6 via an adapter 30. Two screws 31 extend laterally through adapter 30 into ~~prolongations~~ elongations 32 of the frame 33 of head 6. Two longitudinal support bars 35 extend through screws 31 from a rear support plate 36 to a front support plate 37 (see Figs. 1 to 3 and Figs. 10 to 12, *inter alia*).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the rear part of racket handle 3, another combination of a second knurled wheel 52 and another fixation pin 53 is provided, fixation pin 53 being inserted in rear support plate 36. Knurled wheel 52 holds the shaft 54 of a hook 55 which is retained by a clamping screw 56. Rubber drive 44 is attached to the curved front portion 57 of hook 55. Spool 60 for receiving rubber thread 7 comprises ~~a prolongation~~ an elongation 61 having a driving pin 62 inserted therein. The strands of rubber drive 44 extend on either side of driving pin 62 and can thus impart a torque to the driving pin when spool 60 is rotated with respect to rubber drive 44. It has been found that for the smoothest

possible operation of the spool, it must be prevented that axial forces may act upon the bearings of spool 60 when rubber drive 44 is tensioned. This is accomplished in that during the attachment of the rubber drive, hook 55 is displaced in rear knurled wheel 52 in such a manner that the distance between the end of rubber drive 44 on the side of hook 55 and driving pin 62 corresponds to the distance 65 between driving pin 62 and the end of rubber drive 44 on the side of front knurled wheel 48. In other words, hook 55 has to be adjusted such that its front end 57 is exactly at the same distance from driving pin 62 as pin 49, the latter distance 65 being determined by construction.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25, and bridging page 11, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Spool 60 is essentially formed of spool jacket 67 with a front end piece 68 and a rear end piece 69 inserted therein. Front end piece 68 forms ~~prolongation~~ elongation 61, and rear end piece 69 forms a similar ~~prolongation~~ elongation 70, only shorter. ~~Prolongations~~ Elongations 61 and 70 project into corresponding recesses in front bearing plate 71 and rear bearing plate 72 and are smoothly journalled therein by means of rolling bearings 73, particularly ball bearings. Spool jacket 67 is provided on its surface with a helical groove 74 of which a

highly enlarged partial section is shown in Fig. 13. The bottom 75 of the groove 74 is angled in order to counteract twisting of rubber thread 7 in groove 74. Practical tests have shown that a round design of groove bottom 75 results in a strong tendency of rubber thread 7 to twist and to depart from its proper position in the helical groove due to the formation of loops.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18, and bridging page 13, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Carriage 80 comprises a guide sleeve 90, a deflecting pulley 91, and a driving roller block 92 for guiding rubber thread 7 to deflecting pulley 91 which deflects rubber thread 7 from the axial direction to the direction tangential to spool jacket 67 and to helical groove 74. The position of deflecting pulley 91 in the axial direction is determined by driving roller block 92. To this end, driving roller block 92 comprises a larger first, proper driving roller 93 engaging in an empty turn of helical groove 74 and extending quite close to the bottom thereof. The further rollers 94 to 96 of driving roller block 92 engage in turns of helical groove 74 in which rubber thread 7 is present. The diameter of rollers 94 to 96 is chosen such that a small distance subsists between their edges and rubber thread 7 but that they still serve as a moving closure of helical groove 74. Particularly the second roller 94 ensures a proper winding

and unwinding of rubber thread 7. Driving roller block 92 thus provides a precise synchronicity of carriage 80 with the rotation of spool 60 so that rubber thread 7 wound up or unwound from spool 60 around deflecting pulley 91 is always very precisely colinear to helical groove 74. In the respective winding or unwinding area, the rubber thread is already subject to a certain tension, which equalizes in the course of the following one or two turns, however. In this process, besides their function in assisting the proper driving wheel 93, the further rollers 95, 96 of driving roller block 92 provide protection against an ejection of rubber thread 7.-

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 20, and bridging page 14, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Furthermore, with regard to the entering rubber thread 7 behind driving roller block 92, carriage 80 comprises a roller carriage 98 that is loosely disposed in a frame 99 (Figs. 15, 16). Roller carriage 98 comprises a first and a second arrangement 100, or 101 of rollers. The two arrangements 100, 101 are disposed in parallel. The first arrangement 100 comprises six rollers and the second arrangement 101 only two in order to leave space for pressure pin 103 with roller 104. Roller carriage 98 is secured against falling out by a needle 106



extending through holes in frame 99 around roller carriage 98 and through housing 108 of roller carriage 98. Normally, the rollers of roller arrangement 100, 101 therefore run in helical groove 74 with slight contact on rubber thread 7 at most. In front of rear stop plate 110, which is clamped onto guide bars 82 (see Fig. 26), a clasp 111 is disposed (Figs. 20, 21). Clasp 111 comprises a tongue 113 with a shoe 114. When carriage 80 moves towards rear stop plate 110 as rubber thread 7 is being wound up, roller 104 of pressure pin 103 moves under shoe 114 and is depressed by the latter. Roller carriage 98 is thereby also pressed on spool 60, and the rollers of the two roller arrangements 100, 101 are thus pressed on the rubber thread, thereby providing an improved guidance of rubber thread 7. This is important as in this position of carriage 80, if the retrieval device is correctly adjusted, swivel 10 already contacts swivel head 8 and rubber thread 7 is therefore tensioned while carriage 80 moves on. As soon as carriage 80 stands still, since the tension of rubber drive 44 will be smaller than that of rubber thread 7 and spool 60 is thus rotated in the unwinding direction, it will move backwards and even beyond the point where the rubber thread would be just relieved. Consequently, rubber thread 7 becomes slack, and without the improved guidance through depressed roller carriage 98, there would be a risk that the rubber thread might

leave helical groove 74 and even be caught between carriage 80  
and separating walls 76.--